

REMARKS

By way of this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 of the application for clarification purposes.

Dealing with preliminary matters first, the Examiner has not approved or objected to the formal drawings submitted on October 30, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to approve these drawings.

Similarly, the Examiner has not acknowledged the claim to priority or receipt of the priority document that was concurrently filed with the application. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to acknowledge the same.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application, of these claims, claim 1 is in independent form with claims 2-9 depending therefrom. The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. On the other hand, the Examiner has rejected the remaining claims. Specifically, claims 1, 2 and 7-9 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakayama, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,818,236). In addition, claims 3, 5 and 6 have been rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Nakayma, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 1 under § 102(b).

Applicants submit that Nakayama, et al. does not disclose the wiring member which holds the first electric wires and second electric wires, as claim 1 requires. Referring to the first paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner states that connector housing 10 (*See* Fig. 3) corresponds to the claimed wiring member. However, as shown in Figure 3, reference numeral 10 simply corresponds to a connector housing attached to the ends of conductors 9₁ to 9₇. As can

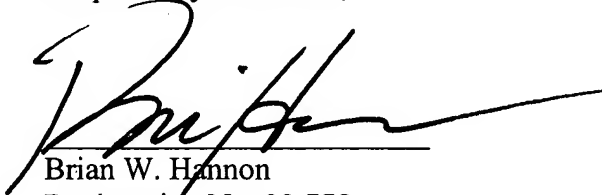
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/608,196
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be appreciated from the foregoing, the reference fails to disclose a wiring member which holds both of the first set of electric wires as well as the second set of electric wires, as does element 38 of the present invention. This is an important feature of the invention because it ensures that the first and second electric wires remain in the proper orientation with respect to one another and electrically connected to each other.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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